

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of providing non-contact data selection, comprising the steps of:
 - providing at least one data selection;
 - transmitting a plurality of signals in proximity to said plurality of data selections;
 - altering the path of at least one of said transmitted plurality of signals through interaction with a selection device;
 - detecting at least one of said altered plurality of signals;
 - determining a position of said selection device from said at least one of said altered plurality of signals; and
 - correlating said position of said selection device to said at least one data selection.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein said transmitting comprises the step of transmitting a plurality of acoustic signals from at least three groupings each of said at least three groupings comprising a signal emitter for emitting one of said plurality of acoustic signals of a unique frequency and a signal receiver for receiving one of said plurality of acoustic signals.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein said altering step comprises reflecting each of said plurality of acoustic signals off of said selection device for reception by one of said plurality of signal receivers.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein said determining step comprises measuring an amount of time between the emission of each of said plurality of acoustic signals and reception by

said plurality of signal receivers, converting said amounts of time to a plurality of distances, and using said plurality of distances to locate said selection device.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said transmitting step comprises emitting a plurality of electromagnetic signals from a plurality of signal emitters each aimed at a corresponding signal receiver.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein said altering step comprises partially blocking said path of at least one of said plurality of electromagnetic signals.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein said detection step comprises measuring an intensity of each of said electromagnetic signals at each of said plurality of signal receivers.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein said providing said at least one data selection comprises providing at said at least one data selection on an elevator.

9. A non-contact data selection system comprising:
at least one data selection;

means for transmitting a plurality of signals in proximity to said plurality of data selections;

means for receiving at least one of said plurality of signals;

means for detecting when at least one of said plurality of signals has been altered;

means for determining a position of a selection device from said at least one of said altered signals; and

means for correlating said position of said selection device to said at least one data selection.

10. The device of claim 9 wherein said at least one data selection corresponds to a floor accessible by an elevator.